

and enrollment efforts in both Medicaid and SCHIP in order to enroll the nearly 7 million children who are eligible for Medicaid or SCHIP but unenrolled. In addition, this legislation addresses another important barrier to enrolling SCHIP eligible children by prohibiting states from capping their SCHIP programs without first exhausting all available federal funding. Although this provision is a step in the right direction, the American Academy of Pediatrics believes that any cap on health care funding for public program coverage is detrimental to ensuring that all uninsured, eligible children and families are able to enroll.

The American Academy of Pediatrics believes that all children, regardless of income, should have access to affordable health insurance such that their families can afford health care services necessary for healthy development. We therefore commend your efforts to strengthen the SCHIP program and give states the option to expand this program to reach more children in their state whose families are unable to afford health insurance in the private market. We encourage states to maintain efforts mandated in the SCHIP statute to minimize crowd-out of the private market as they consider such expansions of SCHIP coverage. Because in most states Medicaid and SCHIP currently pay physicians who care for children at inadequate rates, maintaining the private market is necessary to allow physicians to subsidize care for these children. The Academy urges Congress to consider the impact of inadequate payment rates for services under Medicaid and SCHIP on access to necessary services for beneficiaries in these programs.

The American Academy of Pediatrics is committed to protecting Medicaid and SCHIP. We look forward to working with you on this and other legislative efforts to protect, sustain, and strengthen these critical child health safety net programs.

Sincerely,

CARDEN JOHNSTON, MD, FAAP,
President.

THREE MONTHS AND COUNTING

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, 3 months from yesterday is the expiration date for the assault weapons ban. Despite Senate passage of a bipartisan amendment that would have reauthorized the ban, it appears that this important gun safety law will be allowed to expire. The House Republican leadership opposes reviewing the law and President Bush, though he has said he supports it, has done little to help keep the law alive.

In April of this year, the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence joined hundreds of local elected officials and senior law enforcement officials to urge President Bush to push for reauthorization of this critical piece of gun safety legislation. I commend them for their efforts and continue to support this commonsense gun safety legislation.

The 1994 law banned a list of 19 specific weapons, as well as a number of other weapons incorporating certain design characteristics such as pistol grips, folding stocks, bayonet mounts, and flash suppressors. The assault weapons ban also prohibited the manufacture of semiautomatic weapons that incorporate at least two of these military features and which accept a detachable magazine.

I support the efforts of the law enforcement community and local leaders who are calling for legislation extending the law. In 1994, I voted for the assault weapons ban and, in March of this year, I joined a bipartisan majority of the Senate in voting to extend the assault weapons ban for 10 years.

Law enforcement support for the assault weapons ban is broad. It includes the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Police Foundation, the Police Executive Research Forum, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, the National Association of School Resource Officers, the National Fraternal Order of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association, and the National Black Police Association.

In addition, mayors and police chiefs from Detroit, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, Seattle, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. have joined over 200 other local leaders in urging Congress to immediately pass a 10-year extension of the current ban.

Despite broad support for this law, the National Rifle Association fought against passage of the assault weapons ban in 1994 and continues to oppose it to this day. The ban is a major public safety measure that protects citizens and police officers and I urge the President and the Congress to act immediately to reauthorize the law.

FRANCES WILLIAMS PRESTON

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to an outstanding native Tennessean, Frances Williams Preston.

Frances Preston was born in Nashville, TN and attended elementary, high school and Peabody College at Vanderbilt University there. She holds honorary degrees from the Berklee School of Music, Boston, MA, Lincoln College, Lincoln, IL, and Oklahoma University, Tulsa, OK. Ms. Preston is married to Nashville businessman E.J. Preston, and she is the mother of three children and the grandmother of six children.

This year, Frances Preston will retire from her position of President and Chief Executive Officer of Broadcast Music Inc., BMI. Under Ms. Preston's leadership for the past 18 years, BMI gained international respect as a leader in the entertainment industry and is viewed as one of the music industry's most consistently successful and progressive entities. BMI was founded in 1939 and it operates as a non-profit making business. After operating expenses are paid, BMI returns all royalties to approximately 300,000 creators and copyright owners that it represents.

Ms. Preston began her career in the music industry when she joined the nationally known Nashville radio station, WSM, in mid-1950 as a mail room em-

ployee and where she answered fan mail sent to Hank Williams. Later, she became the popular hostess of a daily fashion and style television show on the WSM station. In 1958, Ms. Preston became a part of BMI when she opened a BMI operation in Nashville as a result of some slight prodding by the first President of BMI, Bob Burton. Ms. Preston began her career with BMI with one assistant working in her parents' garage and oversaw the company's growth to more than 400 employees in Nashville. In 1986, Ms. Preston was appointed to serve as President & CEO of BMI. Ms. Preston played a lead role in building BMI's 2004 repertoire of nearly 4.5 million musical works.

Ms. Preston has been vigilant and supported legislation with respect to rights and incomes of songwriters, composers and publishers.

Frances Preston has received numerous awards and recognition, including but not limited to the T.J. Martell Foundation Humanitarian Award in 1992, the Friar's Applause Award in 1993, the International Achievement in Arts Humanitarian Awards in 1995 and 1997, the American Women in Radio and Television's Outstanding Achievement Award in 1998, the American Women in Radio and Television President's Award in 1998, the National Trustees Award at the 1998 Grammy Awards, the Society for the Advancement of Women's Health Research Woman of Achievement Award in 1999, the National Music Publishers' Association's President's Award in 2001, the Nashville Songwriters Association International President's Award in 2002, the Women in Music Touchstone Advocate Award in 2003, the Michael Bolton Charities' Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003, the Irving Waugh Award of Excellence, and the Broadcasters' Foundation's Golden Mike Award in 2004.

Ms. Preston sits on numerous boards and generously volunteers her time to many charitable organizations.

This brief statement cannot capture all the strengths of Frances Williams Preston and her manifold good works for songwriters, composers and publishers, and America as a whole. I did want to bring to my colleagues' attention the accomplishments and legacy of Frances Preston, and I am honored to recognize the contributions of this great Tennessean.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM GREENBLATT

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, today I congratulate Mr. William Greenblatt, a man whose accomplishments are a true testament to what a business and community leader should be, as he celebrated his 50th birthday on June 9, 2004.

Mr. Greenblatt began his career providing photography services for commercial, industrial, public relations